DEMAND V—REGISTRATION.

Mr. K. Madhava Kurup: Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 8,950 under Demand V—Registration, for the continuance of the temporary Sub-Registrar's Office at Kunnattur, Pathanapuram, Chengannur and Thodupuzha and of the temporary staff of 72 clerks on Rs. 20 each per mensem during 1118. The registrations during the first three months of 1118 in these offices amply justify their continuance and they have slightly, though not adequately, relieved the congestion of work in the neighbouring offices. A reserve staff consisting of 12 clerks on Rs. 20 each for a period of 6 months and 60 temporary clerks on Rs. 20 each for a period of 3 months were sanctioned during the current year to clear the arrears that had accumulated in Sub-Registry Offices and to give some relief to the over-worked subordinates who had been working under high pressure. The work has generally been on the increase in all the offices, and consequently, even with the above staff it has not been possible to keep abreast of the current work. It is proposed to continue the 72 temporary clerks for the whole of 1118. I request that this grant may be sanctioned by the House.

The motion was put and carried; the grant was made.

DEMAND VII—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INCLUDING WATER WORKS AND DRAINAGE.

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Sir, I beg to move for a supplementary grant not exceeding Rs. 3,340 under Demand VII—Public Works Department.

This amount is required for the construction of a kitchen at the Oolampara Barracks for the Police Armed Reserve. Considering the large number of people to be accommodated there, the present provision for a kitchen is insufficient. Only temporary sheds have been erected to serve as kitchen. In the circumstances, a sum of Rs. 3,340 is urgently required for the construction of a kitchen and latrines at Oolampara barracks.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Sir, I second the motion. In doing so, I wish to say a few words. I am rather surprised that the demand of the Chief Engineer for a kitchen is quite a trifling compared with certain other needs of the Department which calls for urgent attention. For example, there is a place which I myself visited, where lands have been flooded repeatedly during the recent rains. This requires the immediate attention of the Department. Therefore, I ask Government to give the Chief Engineer funds to take adequate steps to relieve the distress caused to the people by these floods. My point is, Sir, that the Chief Engineer should have asked for more money to deal with more important problems in the State than for the provision of a kitchen.

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